

REMARKS

Claims 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 are amended; marked up versions of the amendeded claims are attached hereto pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii). New claims 32-37 are added. Claims 1-37 are pending in the application.

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested to correct multiple dependency of claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

By: 

Lawrence J. McCaure

Registration No. 44,228

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
Phone: 213-337-6700  
Fax: 213-337-6701

**Version with markings to show changes made:**

11. The balloon catheter according to claim 4, [5, 9, or 10,] wherein said polyester elastomer material [or said polyamide elastomer material] has a hard segment and a soft segment in its molecule; and ratio of soft segment in the material configuring said balloon is adjusted to be less than the ratio of soft segment in the material configuring the outermost surface of said first tubular member or the material configuring the layer thereof adjacent to said balloon.

13. The balloon catheter according to claim [11] 32, wherein said polyamide elastomer material is a polyamide elastomer having a hard segment and a soft segment in its molecule; and the ratio of said soft segment is adjusted to be larger than 14%.

14. The balloon catheter according to any one of claims 1 to [13] 3 and 6 to 8, wherein the innermost surface of said first tubular member is configured from a high-density polyethylene.

16. The balloon catheter according to any one of claims 1 to [15] 3 and 6 to 8, wherein said balloon is made from a polymer blend material of a first polymer component and a second polymer component that are each thermoplastic elastomers having a hard segment and a soft segment; said first polymer component has a higher Shore hardness than said second polymer component; and both said first polymer component and said second polymer component are thermoplastic elastomers having hard segments with same repeating unit structure and soft segments with same repeating unit structure.

18. The balloon catheter according to claim 16 [or 17], wherein said first polymer component and said second polymer component are polyester elastomers.

19. The balloon catheter according to claim 16 [or 17], wherein said first polymer component and said second polymer component are polyamide elastomers.

20. The balloon catheter according to [any one of claims] claim 16 [to 19], wherein said first polymer component (A) and said second polymer component (B) are blended in a weight ratio of (A)/(B) = 98/2 to 10/90.

21. The balloon catheter according to any one of claims 1 to [20] 3 and 6 to 8, wherein said first tubular member is deployed to pass through the interior of said balloon, and the balloon catheter has such structure that said balloon and the outer surface of said first tubular member are concentrically fused near the distal end of said catheter; and a second tubular member configuring the outer surface of said catheter is made from a material that can be fused with said balloon, and is deployed and connected on the proximal side of said balloon.

26. The balloon catheter according to [any one of claims] 22 [to 26], wherein length of said straight tube part in longitudinal axis direction is adjusted within a range of 8 mm to 80 mm.

27. The balloon catheter according to any one of claims 1 to [26] 3 and 6 to 8, wherein said balloon catheter is a rapid exchange type balloon catheter having a structure in which the proximal end of said first tubular member is opened midway along the catheter shaft.

28. The balloon catheter according to any one of claims 1 to [27] 3 and 6 to 8, wherein the leading end part of said balloon catheter comprising said balloon is protected by a protective device comprising a protective pipe part for protectively

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covering said leading end part comprising said balloon, and a coupling adapter for coupling with a flushing fluid supplying instrument so as to be freely detachable.

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